



Statements in Support of the American Center for CURES Act of 2005

“The American Center for Cures will be a tremendous addition to our nation’s valuable tradition of biomedical research. By emphasizing translational and applications research as well as discovery of diagnostic markers, the ACC will bring the hope of basic science discovery to the reality of patient care. The mandate and goal will be to prevent, early diagnose, or cure the diseases that cause such suffering to humanity. This effort will promote health diplomacy that will bring the genius and resources of our nation to better the health of all Americans.”

- *Secretary Tommy Thompson*

Former Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

Former Governor, State of Wisconsin

“The need for a federal focus on finding cures has long been a top priority for all of us who seek the rapid translation of scientific advances into personal health benefits. With their landmark legislative proposal, Sen.’s Cochran and Lieberman have taken a critical step along our path to cures.”

- *S. Robert Levine MD*

Chairman of the Health Priorities Project of the Progressive Policy Institute

"As Governors around the country look to transform our complex health care system, we must seek new cost-effective solutions that continue to improve our overall health and productivity," said Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "The American Center for Cures represents a bi-partisan effort to devote significant and lasting resources toward an innovative approach to disease treatment and management, offering Americans grappling with chronic and debilitating diseases the lasting gift of hope."

- *Governor Jennifer Granholm, Michigan*

“Finding cures will improve the health of mankind. As an example, by simply delaying the onset of Alzheimer’s disease by five years, the health and productivity of older Americans will be enhanced. Developing cures will provide American families with a better quality of health care that can be sustained over a longer period of time. That is why I urge the establishment of the American Center for Cures.”

- *Governor Tom Vilsack, Iowa*

The American Center for Cures is a timely and creative proposal for tackling an urgent national challenge: the skyrocketing costs of treating and preventing chronic diseases. The confluence of such diseases and a graying population not only threatens to make health care unaffordable, but also jeopardizes prospects for healthy and successful aging. The Center would focus the prodigious talents of our scientific community on specific strategies to cure disease, saving lives and money over the long run.

-Will Marshall, President, Progressive Policy Institute

“The American Center for Cures is a simple, bold, breakthrough idea: A can-do country ought to have the capacity to solve chronic problems, not just treat them.”

- Bruce Reed, President, Democratic Leadership Council

“I think this goes a long way toward improving NIH's ability to do large projects across institutes and to facilitate translational research. I am happy to support this concept ...there are already a lot of good ideas here.”

-Leland Hartwell, Ph. D.

Nobel Laureate, Medicine and Physiology

President, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“I believe the American Center for Cures (ACC) is a wonderful effort that focuses physicians and scientists on bringing the discoveries of the laboratory to the patient. The lives of many Americans will be improved by having the ACC bring to bear new resources in the fight against chronic neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and other neurodegenerative disorders. I enthusiastically support the American Center for Cures and hope that my colleagues in biomedical research will join me.”

- Stanley Prusiner, M. D.

Nobel Laureate, Medicine and Physiology

University of California, San Francisco

”The proposed ACC offers a blend of existing federal activities in health research with several new initiatives, all aimed at speeding the move from discovery to products that help human health. The proposal has multiple components including strengthening existing NIH authorities in support of small business. When enacted and in operation the results of this new focused activity should be very visible with improvements to the public health that would not be possible without this new money with mandates on how it is spent.”

- Robert Day, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Emeritus Professor and Dean, University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Emeritus Professor and Director, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Member, Public Health Sciences

Member, National Cancer Advisory Board, National Cancer Policy Board

“The establishment of an American Center for Cures with its emphasis, prominence and integration into the rest of the United States organization of health care related ventures

would represent an enormous step forward. The focus of the Center on translation of basic science initiatives to the clinical arena will benefit those whose support has taken us to the present date. I applaud the initiative.”

- *Fritz H Bach, M.D.*

*Lewis Thomas Distinguished Professor
Harvard Medical School*

“Medical discoveries over the past century have greatly increased the quality and quantity of human life. New insights into biology will make even more advances possible. The American Center for Cures will make the translation of biological discoveries to the patient occur not only faster but much more likely to happen. It is hard to imagine another investment that would extend the quality and quantity of life than fully funding the American Center for Cures.”

- *James O. Armitage, M. D.*

*Joe Shapiro Professor of Medicine
University of Nebraska College of Medicine
Member, National Cancer Advisory Board*

“I am pleased to support the American Center for Cures (ACC) proposed legislation that you introduced to the United States Senate on Wednesday, December 7. This legislation is critical and in the translation of advances in fundamental biomedical science to improvements in the care of people. Please let me know if I can help make this dream a reality.”

- *Lee Goldman, MD, MPH*

*Julius R. Krevans Distinguished Professor and Chair
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
University of California San Francisco School of Medicine
President, Association of Professors of Medicine*

“I enthusiastically support The American Center for Cures (ACC) Senate legislation. The ACC will focus our nation’s scientists and doctors on applying basic scientific discoveries to help the patient. This critical approach to research will not only help our friends and loved ones with their health, it will be the 21st Century American approach to solving the health care financial crisis. By eliminating or reducing certain diseases for all Americans, the looming federal and state Medicare and Medicaid financial tsunami will be markedly reduced. There is no time to lose. I urge the immediate passage of the ACC legislation.”

- *Stephen Gleason, D. O., Ph.D.*

*Former CEO Mercy Clinics
Former VP Medical Operations for Catholic Health Initiatives
Former White House advisor
Former chief of staff, Governor Tom Vilsack
Former Presidential Representative to the World Health Organization
Assistant Professor, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine*

"The American Center for Cures will be the engine that brings basic science discoveries and apply them to the patient. It has been said that women and minorities are not dying from the lack of research, they are dying from the lack of research being applied to them. The ACC will focus the talent of the greatest scientists and clinicians for one singular purpose: to cure, prevent, or diagnose earlier diseases that afflict so many in the world. As a mother, nurse, researcher, and educator, I believe that the ACC will bring better health to all of us. The time is now...let us not waste another moment."

- *Sandra Underwood, RN, PhD*

University of Wisconsin School of Nursing

"The American Center for Cures is a remarkable idea that will be the bridge between the promise of scientific opportunities and the reality of our nation's health needs – to deliver cures. Americans deserve a center that is totally dedicated to finding cures for our most devastating and debilitating chronic diseases. The ACC is the natural extension of the doubling of the NIH budget. Now we must have as a top national priority an accountable, mission-driven Center for Cures to rapidly identify "cure opportunities" already created by federal, academic and private research laboratories and proactively accelerate and rapidly translate these opportunities into real cures.

In an era of expanding needs, exploding knowledge of the biomedical sciences, and demands of the public to have the knowledge applied to their loved ones' ailments, the American Center for Cures offers new hope and dynamic reality to Americans. The American Center for Cures is the opportunity to commit the American genius, resources, and ethic to a greater cause in a "moonshot" approach to diseases."

- *Richard J. Boxer, M. D.*

Clinical Professor, Health Policy, Medical College of Wisconsin

Clinical Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin

Clinical Professor, Surgery/Urology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Having reviewed the material you so kindly sent me, I want to applaud this pioneering, entrepreneurial approach which will undoubtedly accelerate the process by which we discover and implement cures for diseases and improve and enrich the quality of life of tens of millions of Americans. I hope that this bold solutions-oriented approach will have overwhelmingly bi-partisan support in Congress and that it will be signed into law by the President at the earliest possible moment."

- *Steve Grossman*

Former Chair, Democratic National Committee

C.E.O. Massachusetts Envelope Company

"The American Center for Cures is the best new idea in Washington DC in a generation. It is timely, creative and compelling."

- *Joe Andrew*

Former Chair, Democratic National Committee

Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal, LLP

"The combination of NIH and industry-supported research, combined with venture capital, has been very successful in bringing new drugs based on fundamental biological discoveries

into commercial reality. In areas that combine fundamental biology and physical science and engineering—biomedical devices, analytical, genomic, and diagnostic tools, bioinformation systems, tissue engineering—the current system works substantially less well.”

- *George Whitesides, Ph.D.*

Professor of Chemistry

Harvard Medical School

(given in 2004)

“The concept of the new institute is exciting.”

- *Arthur W. Nienhuis, M.D.*

Director, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

(given in 2004)

“The concept and its underlying philosophy are right on target. We need to open cancer research in prevention, early diagnosis, and cure to scientists in diverse fields that include physicists, chemists, computer scientists and mathematicians.”

- *Frederick P. Li, M.D.*

Director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Control

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

(given in 2004)

"The 20th Century saw a 100-percent increase in worldwide life expectancy - one of the greatest achievements in history. Today's children face different challenges, including a higher risk of dying from cancer and other diseases of aging than their grandparents did. In the 21st Century, our challenge is to use incredible advancements in information technology and biology to defeat such diseases as cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's and many other afflictions that take years of quality life from our loved ones. The most-important benefit will be reduced human suffering. And the value to our economy will be measured in trillions of dollars. The American Center for Cures (ACC) legislation recognizes and responds to the imperative of defeating these deadly diseases in our lifetimes. I believe we can do that if we summon the will to change the way we pursue new medical solutions. FasterCures supports passage of the ACC legislation and urges its rapid implementation. There is not a moment to lose."

- *M. Millken*

Chairman, FasterCures/The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions

“The American Center for Cures will be extraordinarily important for all Americans, and indeed all humanity. The new Center will combine scientific disciplines that have previously not been brought to bear upon biomedical problems. This is a unique and desperately needed approach will break through the impasse and finally bring the formidable power of all science to focus and solve the diseases that plague the world.

The American Center for Cures has been designed to bring accountability and responsibility for ultimate cures. Its success will be measured by cures and cures alone.

As a father, husband, entrepreneur, and one who has seen too much suffering, I believe it is incumbent upon us to take a bold approach to biomedical research that will make our children and future generations free of the diseases that have afflicted us and our ancestors. Let our descendents look back at our generation and say, 'They reached for the stars, and found they were capable of conquering old paradigms, fears, and diseases.'"

- *Lou Weisbach*

C.E.O. Stadium Capital Associates

Founder, HA-LO Industries, Inc.

"Oscar Wilde once wrote, 'Morality, like art, begins with a line being drawn someplace.'"

With tremendous suffering and disease so prevalent in our country, the American Center for Cures' (ACC) proposed legislation being introduced by Senators Lieberman and Cochran draws a line in the sand for health and extending the lifetime of every individual. From a religious point of view, this certainly responds to the notion that we are identified with life affirmation.

I heartily endorse this legislation."

- *Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs*

Temple Kol Tikvah

Woodland Hills, CA

- *Rabbi Michael Lerner*

Editor, Tikkun Magazine

Rabbi, Beyt Tikkun Synagogue

San Francisco, California